



FALL
2014

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND

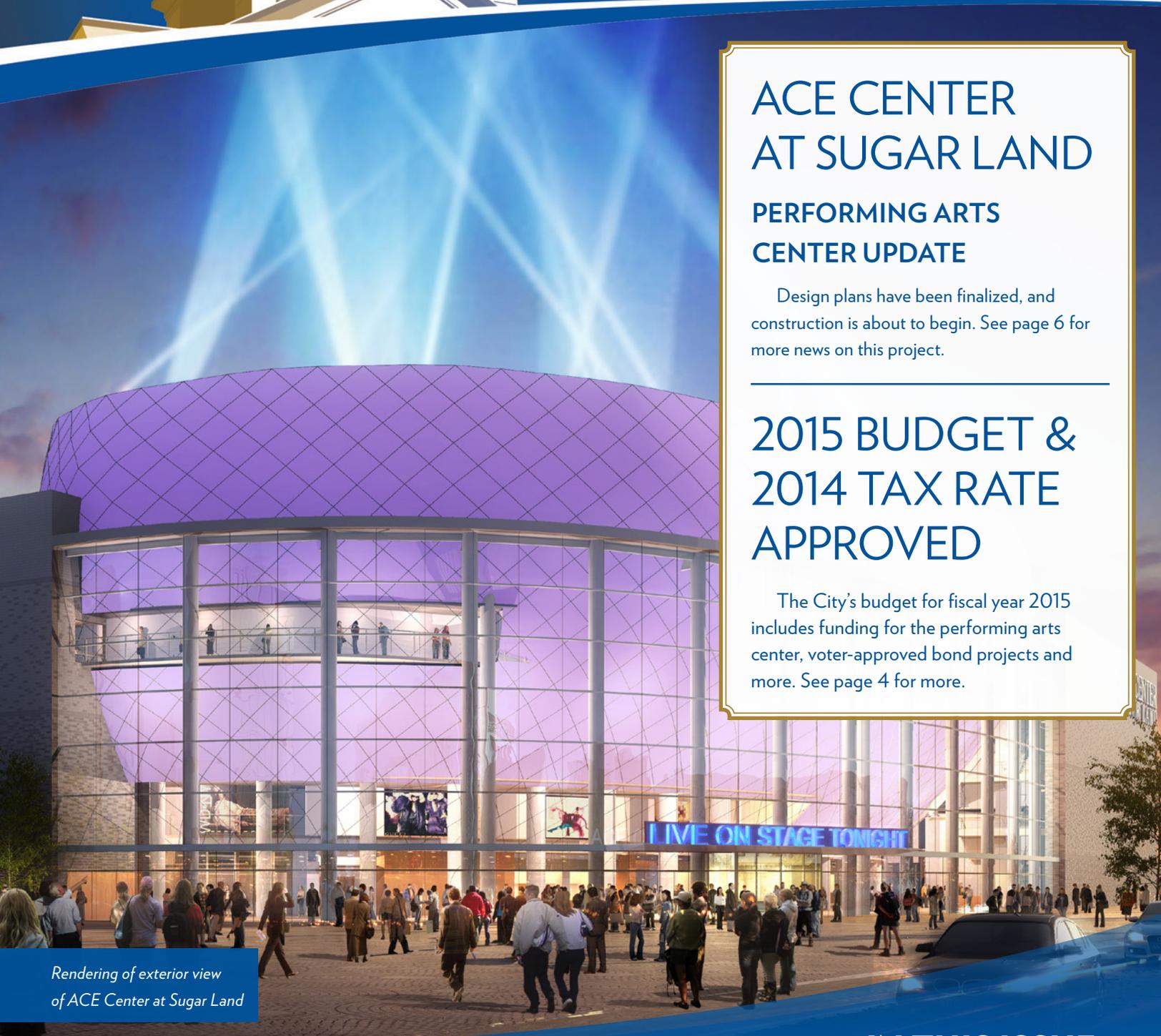
ACE CENTER AT SUGAR LAND

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER UPDATE

Design plans have been finalized, and construction is about to begin. See page 6 for more news on this project.

2015 BUDGET & 2014 TAX RATE APPROVED

The City's budget for fiscal year 2015 includes funding for the performing arts center, voter-approved bond projects and more. See page 4 for more.



Rendering of exterior view
of ACE Center at Sugar Land

IN THIS ISSUE

GET CONNECTED



7 BUSINESS &
JOB GROWTH

8 PED-BIKE
TRAILS

10 EMS
UPDATES

DEAR RESIDENTS



There are several reasons I enjoy working for the City of Sugar Land, but one aspect I find particularly rewarding is our commitment to ensure there will be a future generation of local government leaders for our City. We do this by investing in our young professionals and attracting top-notch people to our organization. While it does take some effort on our part to make certain we are feeding the passions they have, it is all worthwhile when you see them progress through the organization and do wonderful things for the City. Already this year, there have been three advancements which highlight how we are developing leaders from within the organization.

Jennifer Brown began in the Accounting Department in 2000 and has served in a number of roles before being promoted to Director of Finance in January. In this new position, Jennifer has overseen the refunding of 2005 Sugar Land Development Corporation Bonds (SLDC) with 2014 SLDC Bonds to realize savings through reduced interest costs. This will result in an average savings of \$63,786 each year for the next eleven years.

Lisa Kocich-Meyer became the Director of Planning in June after a nation-wide search. She began working for the organization in 2006 and has served in various planning positions. She has been leading the update of our Land Use Plan, which documents the land use policies that guide development within the City. We recently engaged the public through a series of forums with over 300 participants to receive their input and we will continue to work with the public throughout the process under Lisa's guidance.

Our most recent promotion came in August, when Jennifer May was appointed to Director of Economic Development. She had been serving as Interim Director after beginning in the organization in 2006 as a Management Assistant I. Under her leadership, the City has approved agreements for major headquarter expansions for Applied Optoelectronics, Inc., and Nalco Champion, an Ecolab company. These projects will bring more than \$84 million in capital investments and nearly 1,400 new jobs to the City over the next ten years.

These three individuals are just a few examples of our talented workforce. I am extremely proud of their accomplishments and hope you are too as they continue to do great things for the City of Sugar Land.

Allen Bogard



Director of Finance
Jennifer Brown



Director of Planning
Lisa Kocich-Meyer



Director of Economic Development
Jennifer May

CITY GOALS

- Safest City in America
- Responsible City Government
- Strong Local Economy
- Great Place to Live
- Building Community

CITY COUNCIL

James A. Thompson
Mayor

Harish Jajoo
Mayor Pro Tem
Single Member District Four

Himesh Gandhi
At-Large Position One

Joe R. Zimmerman
At-Large Position Two

Steve R. Porter
Single Member District One

Bridget R. Yeung
Single Member District Two

Amy L. Mitchell
Single Member District Three

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First Assistant City Manager

Jim Callaway
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Sugar Land Today is published quarterly by the City of Sugar Land.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR CITY CITIZENS' ACADEMIES



The City of Sugar Land offers three citizen-involvement academies that provide opportunities for Sugar Land residents to learn about the roles of the fire department, police department and regional airport.

CITIZENS' FIRE ACADEMY

Discover firsthand what it takes to be a firefighter and what services the Sugar Land Fire Department (SLFD) provides. Students will take a ride in a fire truck, put out a fire with a portable extinguisher and learn the ins and outs of SLFD in this unique opportunity.

Classes will be held for eight weeks, with six classes on Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. as well as two Saturdays in the field. The program begins Thursday, Jan. 8. Registration for this academy will be open from Saturday, Oct. 11 to Monday, Dec. 15.

CITIZENS' AIRPORT ACADEMY

The Citizens' Airport Academy provides a comprehensive overview of Sugar Land Regional Airport (SLRA). Participants learn about the history of SLRA, the role of the airport in the City's organization, the scope of airport's operations and the economic impact on the region and the benefits provided to Sugar Land.

Classes will be held for six weeks, with classes on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Classes begin Thursday, Jan. 29. Registration for the Citizen's Airport Academy will be open from Saturday, Nov. 1 to Monday, Dec. 15.

CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the Sugar Land Police Department by applying for the 55th Citizens' Police Academy. Participants will discover what it takes to be a police officer and how the department operates.

Classes will be held for 11 weeks, with classes on nine Thursdays from 7-10 p.m. as well as two Saturdays in the field. The program begins in the spring of 2015. Registration will be held from Saturday, Nov. 1 to Monday, Dec. 15.

Ideal candidates will share the information they have learned with others in the community. Requirements to participate are a commitment to attend all sessions of the program, be at least 18 years old and either live or work in Sugar Land. Each program may have additional qualifications as well. More on each of the classes can be found online at www.sugarlandtx.gov/volunteer under "Citizen Involvement Programs."

DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

THURSDAY, OCT. 9, 6-8 P.M. DISTRICT 4

Council Member Harish Jajoo
Clements High School
4200 Elkins Road 77479

The meeting will be held in the downstairs lecture hall. Topics to be covered will include emergency medical services, crime prevention, bond election projects and the new performing arts center as well as progress on capital improvement projects in the district.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12, 6-8 P.M. DISTRICT 1

Council Member Steve Porter
T.E. Harman Senior Center
226 Matlage Way

The presentations will be on emergency medical services, the crime prevention camera program, the Union Pacific Railroad project and progress on capital improvement projects in the district.

Not sure which district you live in?
Visit My Neighborhood at www.sugarlandtx.gov/myneighborhood to find out your district and other neighborhood specific information.

SUGAR LAND 101



Sugar Land 101 is a class for residents interested in learning about City operations from the City's top managers. Participants take two citywide tours, including a behind-the-scenes look at City facilities. The next class is scheduled to begin in January 2015. Applications will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 31.

Applicants for Sugar Land 101 must have at least one year of residency in Sugar Land, be a registered voter, 21 years of age or older, and able to attend the entire 10-week session. Applicants currently holding or running for elected office are not eligible for the course.

To apply online or for more information about Sugar Land 101 and additional enrollment requirements, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/SL101. Enrollment is limited. For questions, email sl101@sugarlandtx.gov or call 281-275-2329.



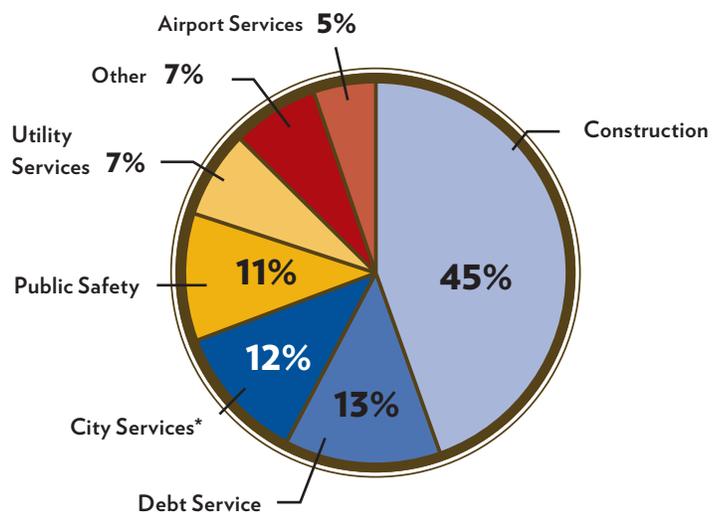
CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2015 BUDGET

City Council approved a \$324.75 million budget on Sept. 16 for fiscal year 2015. Of the total, \$167.30 million is for city operations, \$13.11 million is for economic development and \$144.35 million is for capital projects. The operating budget includes funding for a number of City Council's high-priority projects, including personnel and equipment for implementation of fire-based emergency medical services transport, implementation of the public safety compensation study and expanded code enforcement efforts.

The budget funds \$144.35 million in capital improvement projects, including construction of ACE Center at Sugar Land—a 6,500 seat performing arts venue funded by the Sugar Land Development Corporation and participation rental from ACE Theatrical, LLC. No general fund tax dollars will be used.

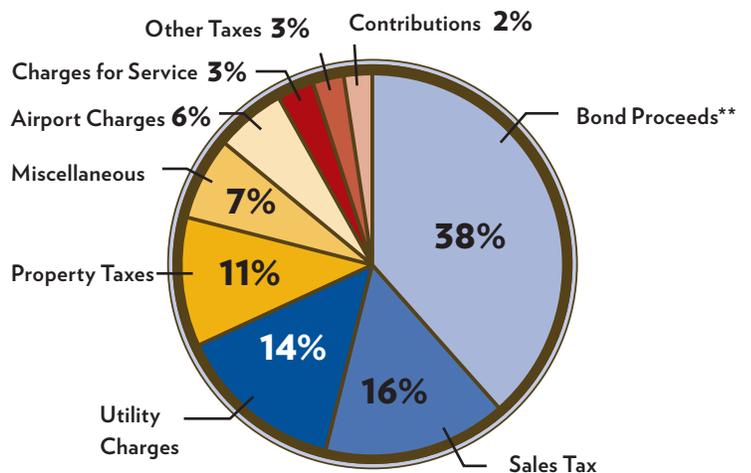
The approved Capital Improvement Program emphasizes drainage improvements, with significant investment in Sugar Creek and Covington Woods. It includes \$21.2 million in street rehabilitation and reconstruction for projects including the widening of Dairy Ashford; the reconstruction of Lakefield, Williams Trace from Lexington to Highway 6 and Austin Parkway from Highway 6 to the First Colony ditch; and reconstruction in the Highlands and Settlers Park. The first year of funding for the voter-authorized park bond projects is included at \$13.55 million. This will fund work on the next phase of Brazos River Park, grading and site work on the festival site and the Imperial and First Colony trails.

FIGURE 1: FY 2015 EXPENDITURES: \$324.75 MILLION



* City Services include general government, support services, fiscal services, public works, parks & recreation and community development

FIGURE 2: FY 2015 REVENUES: \$312.37 MILLION



** Includes certificates of obligation, voter authorized general obligation bonds, and utility revenue bonds



HIGHWAY 90A RAIL PROJECT



A MESSAGE FROM UNION PACIFIC

Project Details

Union Pacific Railroad is building a second rail line along U.S. Highway 90A through Sugar Land. The new track will extend from Ulrich Street in Sugar Land to Gessner Road in Missouri City. This project requires two phases of work.

The first phase involves site preparations such as grading, and will require temporary railroad crossing closures. These closures are not anticipated to last longer than two weeks, and only one crossing will be closed at a time.

Work is expected to take place Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Crossing closures are subject to change; however, work is anticipated at Main Street through Oct. 6. Dates for other temporary closures at Eldridge Road, Gillingham Lane, Schlumberger Drive, Industrial Boulevard and Dairy Ashford Road will be provided at a later date.

In the second phase, which may begin in early 2015, crews will install the new track along U.S. Highway 90A. The second phase will also require temporary railroad crossing closures.

Construction Impacts

Traffic delays should be expected throughout the project. Wayside horns are expected to remain operational during Union Pacific's project; however, trains are required to sound bells and horns while crews are on the work site.

Communicating with the Community

Union Pacific is committed to informing the public of road closures. For more information, go to the City's website at www.sugarlandtx.gov/unionpacific.

OPEN HOUSE

Wood Street Rail Crossing Closure

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Overview: 5:30-5:45 p.m.

Open House: 5:45-7:30 p.m.

T.E. Harman Center

226 Matlage Way 77478

University Boulevard is being extended across the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) tracks along U.S. Highway 90A. The new University Boulevard crossing requires two other crossings to close. One will be the Nalco drive, and Wood Street is recommended as the second. Join us at the open house to learn more.

FEE AND RATE CHANGES

City Council also approved a fee ordinance effective Jan. 1, 2015. There are no increases to water, wastewater or surface water fees. Solid waste rates will increase to \$16.81 beginning in January. A number of user fees are being adjusted by 3.6 percent based on the two-year Consumer Price Index change. There are several new fees that allow the City to cover costs associated with service delivery. The fees are for services that are currently provided, but for which there are no fees charged. The new fees include a convenience fee to offset credit card charges for defendants who pay citations to the Municipal Court via telephone or the Internet, and a fire annual inspection fee for facilities that are mandated by the state to have annual inspections (e.g., nursing homes and day care facilities). The budget also restructures existing fire alarm and fixed fire extinguishing system fees to better recovers the costs associated with the inspections and plan reviews.

For the complete annual operating budget for fiscal year 2015, visit the City's website at www.sugarlandtx.gov/budget.

2014 PROPERTY TAX RATE APPROVAL

The 2014 property tax rate of 31.595 cents approved on Sept. 16 is a 0.7 cent increase from the 2013 tax rate. The increase is needed to implement the first year of the voter-approved park bonds. The impact to individual taxpayers will vary depending on changes to assessed value assigned by the central appraisal district. Tax bills will be sent by Fort Bend County in November. More information on the City of Sugar Land's property taxes can be found at www.fortbendcountytx.gov.



Rendering of interior view
of performing arts center

ACE CENTER AT SUGAR LAND

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER UPDATE

After almost a year, design plans have been finalized for the ACE Center at Sugar Land—a 6,500-seat performing arts center that will accommodate a wide range of shows. The venue will be operated by the City's partner, ACE Theatrical. The City selected the Linbeck Group for the construction contract.

The selection of Linbeck was the result of a process that began in August 2013 with a formal request for qualifications. A short list of five firms was identified, and Linbeck was selected after a comprehensive evaluation and interview process.

In the past six years, Linbeck has completed more than \$3 billion in construction projects utilizing the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process. A few recent projects include:

- Verizon Theater in Grand Prairie;
- Tobin Center for Performing Arts in San Antonio;
- Bill and Margo Winspear Opera House in Dallas; and
- Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth.

The ACE Center will be located on Lexington Boulevard adjacent to Texas Instruments. The construction will begin by the end of the year and is expected to be finished in the fall of 2016. ACE will make a \$10-million equity contribution to the project. A portion of sales tax revenues that may only be used for economic development purposes and a portion of hotel occupancy tax funds that are restricted to tourism initiatives will be dedicated to the project. Rent revenues generated by the facility will also fund the performing arts center. No general fund tax dollars will be used.



BUSINESSES AND JOBS ARE GROWING

Nalco Champion, an Ecolab Company, is centralizing its headquarters and expanding its research and development (R&D) in Sugar Land. This project will bring over 1,100 new jobs and retain more than 340. The project will also create \$45 million in new capital investment.

The expansion includes a new 133,500-square-foot facility and 1,000 parking spaces. Existing buildings will also be reconfigured to maximize office space, accommodate supply chain needs and create additional space for the expansion of the company's R&D facilities. The new building and improvements will be adjacent to Nalco Champion's existing facility along U.S. Highway 90A. Construction is expected to be completed by early 2016.

To accommodate the expansion and to allow for the extension of University Boulevard north of U.S. Highway 90A, the company will also make substantial rail spur improvements.

Nalco Champion decided to centralize its headquarters in Sugar Land after a comprehensive evaluation of other regional opportunities. The City's Office of Economic Development created a multi-faceted incentive package that was approved by both City Council and the Sugar Land Development Corporation to

secure the retention and expansion of Nalco Champion's office and R&D presence in Sugar Land.

Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. (AOI) is expanding its facility in Sugar Land by building approximately 111,000-square-foot of office and manufacturing facilities to house their corporate headquarters and R&D. The project will accommodate the creation of 530 new jobs, retention of 235 existing jobs and have a total capital investment over \$30 million.

AOI is a leading, vertically integrated provider of fiber-optic networking products, primarily for three networking end-markets: cable television, fiber-to-the-home and internet data centers. The company is a prime example of a spin-off from university research. Its founders began at the University of Houston by developing lasers for military and space applications in 1997.

In 2000, the company relocated its corporate headquarters to Sugar Land. Since then, the company has grown from 20 to more than 1,300 employees worldwide, with over 200 employees in Sugar Land. In March 2013, AOI was converted into a Delaware corporation and had its initial public offering on the NASDAQ Global Market in September 2013.



Left to right: Publications Manager Alexi Holford, Graphics Coordinator Austin M. Pennington and Web Manager Carlos Hernandez

Sugar Land Receives Statewide Recognition

At the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) annual convention in June, the City of Sugar Land won two gold awards, known as TAMI Awards. Sugar Land won gold for its City newsletter, *Sugar Land Today*, and for the website. Since its inception in 2002, the TAMI Awards have served to recognize outstanding municipal government achievements in communications, marketing and constituent relationships.



Pictured (L-R) Assistant Public Works Director Dawn Steph, Texas Public Works Association Southeast Branch President Andrea Brinkley, Mayor James Thompson and Environmental Manager Gabe Reaume

Sustainability Practices Award

On June 19 in Galveston, the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association honored the City of Sugar Land's Public Works Department with its Sustainability Practices Award for its solid waste and recycling program success. In 2013, Sugar Land diverted more than 34 percent of solid waste from landfills due to an increase in recycling. In addition, Assistant Director of Public Works Dawn Steph was recognized with the Professional Manager of the Year Award in the Solid Waste category.

COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Sugar Land 4B Corporation is seeking applications for its Joint CIP Grant Program available to community based organizations. Examples of such projects include improvements to public parks, park facilities and public open spaces. The deadline to submit applications is Jan. 2, 2015. For more information, please visit www.sugarlandcodev.com/CIP.



ON THE RIGHT TRAIL

In 2005 when the Parks and Recreation Department asked citizens what quality-of-life amenity they wanted most, the number one answer was trails. Since then, the City created the Hike and Bike Master Plan in 2007 and the Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan in 2013. One of the main goals of the plan is to create a citywide network connecting residential, recreation, retail and employment areas.

Many trails, trailheads and trail connections have been constructed in the past five years. This includes the renovation and extension of the Ditch A-22 trail, the extension of the popular Eldridge Park trail and the widening of sidewalks along roadways such as Dulles Avenue, U.S. Highway 90A and University Boulevard. A new trailhead in Sugar Land Memorial Park features a map of all of the nearby trail segments. Currently, more than 3.5 miles of on-street bicycle facilities are being implemented on Alston Road, Grants Lake Boulevard and Sugar Lakes Boulevard. These on-street bike facilities complement the City's trails.

Bolstering these milestones, voters approved approximately \$10 million for new trail construction in the bond election in 2013. Some of the projects have already been designed and will be the first of the bond projects constructed next year. These trails include approximately two miles in the First Colony area, primarily along drainage ditches. These segments will connect to both existing and future trails and include a much-requested bridge connecting to the City's Mesquite Park. Another highly anticipated trail will connect to the Lake Pointe Trail on Brooks Street, then travel north to Imperial Park, where almost two miles of trails will be added.

Preliminary design has been completed on what will be the City's largest trail, Ditch H. This five-and-a-half mile trail will connect trails from north to south and will go under U.S. Highway 59 and State Highway 6. This trail will be constructed in segments and is anticipated to be complete in 2019. It features trail heads connecting it to the Imperial Park trail, undercrossings and two pedestrian bridges to connect it to the First Colony trails.

At this time, Sugar Land parks and neighborhoods feature more than three miles of bike lanes, 51 miles of shared-use paths (trails) and 11 miles of side paths (wider sidewalks). The planned additions to the trail system will add almost 10 miles. To find out more about the City's trails, safety information, activities and interactive maps, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/pedbike.

CALL for PHOTOS!

The City's annual calendar features photos from Sugar Land residents. We encourage residents to go out and take photos of friends and family at Sugar Land events, parks and places. Preference is given to photos that include people. We can only use photos of high quality. Pictures from most smart phones are not high enough resolution for print. Entries must include the photographer's name, contact information and the location and date of each submitted photo. Entrants will be credited if their photo is used in the calendar. Submitted photos may also be considered for the City's website and other City publications. Please submit by Oct. 17. Photos can be sent to pubinfo@sugarlandtx.gov. Call 281-275-2296 for more information.

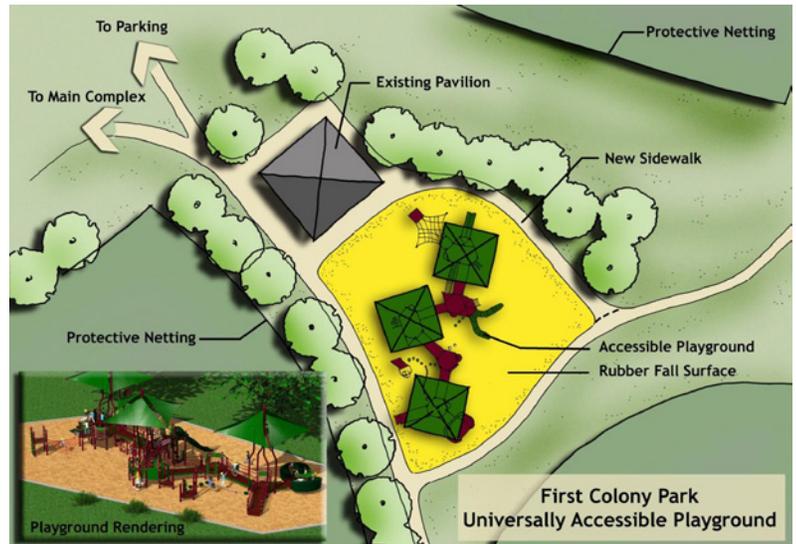
FUND YOUR PARK



Sugar Land's Universally Accessible Playground Project at First Colony Park was chosen by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to be featured on its crowdfunding site at <http://ow.ly/BfuMh>.

The Fund Your Park website was created to raise money for selected park and recreation projects. Sugar Land's playground project was one of only 10 projects chosen by NRPA to have a Fund Your Park crowdfunding page. The pages will be live through Friday, Oct. 24.

Donations made through the City's Fund Your Park page will go toward building the first fully accessible playground in Sugar Land. The new playground will replace the existing one at First Colony Park. It will provide a place where children can play together and foster friendships in a welcoming and safe environment—where every child's unique qualities and abilities are recognized and appreciated.



The playground surface will be a bonded rubber surface that makes it easier for wheelchairs and others who need a more even surface to access the equipment. Platforms on the equipment will be longer and have ramps to make every piece of playground equipment accessible to everyone. Sensory-stimulating playground products that are specifically designed to encourage personal, social and emotional development will be included as well.

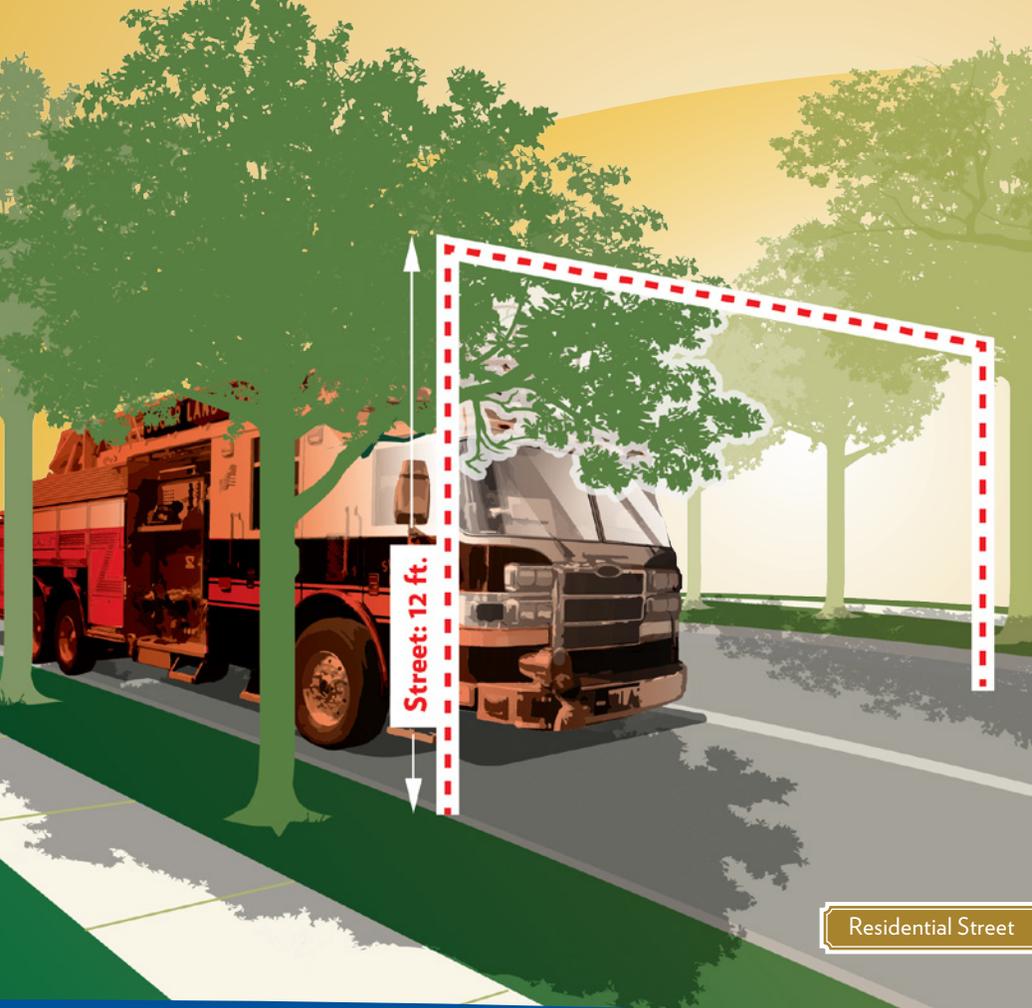
For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation department at 281-275-2890.

GANNOWAY LAKE & TRAIL STUDY

At the March 4 City Council meeting, the City approved the hire of the landscape architecture firm Asakura Robinson Company to create a plan for park and trail improvements around Gannoway Lake. Gannoway Lake is at the intersection of Voss and Burney Roads, close to Constellation Field and adjacent to Kempner High School and the City's surface water treatment plant. The City of Sugar Land owns the lake and most of the surrounding property.

The existing lake and wetlands site is approximately 50 acres. The area provides both unique opportunities and challenges for recreation. The City held a community meeting on June 2 to obtain public input. The community's suggestions will be reviewed for possible incorporation into the project plans. Upon completion of the plan, funding for the project will be considered in the annual Capital Improvement Program.

Trails and boardwalks meandering through the trees and wetlands are envisioned for hiking, jogging and biking. Water-based recreation for canoeing, kayaking and fishing are also being considered. Park amenities such as picnic facilities, a playground, restrooms, parking and landscaping are to be incorporated as well. The development of Gannoway Lake to incorporate a park and trail will complement the neighboring active sports parks such as Eldridge, Imperial and City Parks on the north side of the Sugar Land. For updates on this project, please visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/parks.



TREE TRIMMING: A SERIOUS MATTER

Expensive damage to a Sugar Land fire truck was recently caused by low hanging tree limbs over a city street. The damage totaled \$14,000. Alternate routes were needed as a result of this hazard, and the detour added valuable time to the emergency response. Properly pruned trees allow large vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks to safely navigate City streets. Trees that interfere with emergency service vehicles and other vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic traveling on streets or sidewalks are in violation of City code.

All trees and limbs growing in or near a right-of-way must be trimmed to the regulated height stated by city ordinance:

- Where the tree overhangs a residential street, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 12 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.
- Where the tree overhangs a non-residential street with occasional semi-trailer traffic, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 14 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.

For more tree care information and information on local arborists, visit treesaregood.org. For questions about maintenance responsibilities, contact individual homeowner associations or the City of Sugar Land Public Works Department at 281-275-2450.



Battalion Chief Cindy King and Fire Captain Randy Bayes with new EMS equipment in the City's first ambulance.

NEW CITY SERVICE COMING

A new Emergency Medical Service (EMS) will be rolled out in January 2015. The City's first ambulance was purchased in May, and four more will be coming soon. Battalion Chief Cindy King was hired in February to work with Assistant Fire Chief Mario Partida on the implementation of EMS transport.

Nine firefighters have been trained as paramedics. An additional nine paramedic/firefighters have been hired, and more will be hired. The remaining employees are all medically trained to EMT and EMT-I level and will also be working on ambulances as part of the service.

The addition of Sugar Land Fire Department's own ambulance transport system, increased paramedic certifications and expanded dispatch operations is expected to decrease response times for EMS calls. The new system should also increase readiness for fire calls, as the appropriate resources will be sent to calls for service.

Emergency calls requiring an EMS response represented more than 60 percent of Sugar Land Fire Department's call volume last year. Structure fires were only about .3 percent of the calls. A focus on strong code enforcement, public education and relatively new infrastructure contributed toward a low number of structure fires in Sugar Land.

A priority during 2013 was to begin planning for the creation of SLFD's own ambulance transport system. The effort was the result of a strategic project to meet Advanced Life Support delivery standards that were identified by Dr. Joe Anzaldúa, Sugar Land's medical director.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

TELFAIR

Telfair includes more than 2,000 acres north and south of U.S. Highway 59 near University Boulevard. Several projects are being constructed.

- The Texas Instruments campus on the south side of U.S. Highway 59 at University Boulevard and Lexington Boulevard held their grand opening in July.
- Construction is almost complete on Building 1 of the Telfair Exchange Lofts, a project that includes three residential buildings for a total of 317 residential units on Branford Place.
- Construction is complete on Addison Avenue at U.S. Highway 59 and the nearby Telfair West Office Park west of University Boulevard.

IMPERIAL

The Imperial development contains 716 acres located north of U.S. Highway 90A and east of State Highway 6 and includes the former Imperial Sugar refinery.

- Construction of homes in the Silent Manor and Quiet Cove subdivisions includes 143 residential lots, of which 27 are townhome lots.
- Construction of the Ballpark Lofts next to Constellation Field will include 254 apartment units. This development will connect to the Imperial trail system currently under construction along several portions of Oyster Creek.
- Plans are being reviewed for additional residential single family zoning in the area north of Imperial Boulevard

RIVERSTONE

Riverstone is located on 2,170 acres in the southeast corner of the City's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), an area outside the City's corporate limits that is available for annexation in the future.

- Construction of the 249 residential units at the Retreat at Riverstone residential community is nearing completion.

UPDATES TO CITY ROAD PROJECTS

Meadowcroft Boulevard

The extension of Meadowcroft Boulevard from First Colony Boulevard to Ditch H is almost complete. All sidewalks have been replaced to provide a connection from Telfair to First Colony Boulevard. New traffic lights at First Colony Boulevard and Meadowcroft Boulevard are in service. This \$1.5 million project will provide additional east/west access over Ditch H. A new bridge will be constructed by Newland Communities and should be finished by the end of the year.

Lakefield Subdivision Street Reconstruction

Street design is complete, and construction is expected to begin in late October. The project includes replacement of sidewalks throughout the subdivision as well as some drainage and water line replacement.

Austin Parkway

Design of Austin Parkway from State Highway 6 to the levee near Commonwealth is 90 percent complete. The proposed improvements include new roadway, sidewalk and trail expansions and other infrastructure. Construction is scheduled to start in early 2015.

Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of sewer lines at several locations throughout the City is underway. The lines range from 8 inches to a foot in diameter. This \$1.4 million project will extend the service life of the system. The construction is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2015.

Jenny Drive and Highlands Drive

The design of this project was recently completed, and construction will begin this fall. In addition to pavement rehabilitation, residents can anticipate sidewalk repair, drainage improvements and new water lines. Construction will run concurrently on both Jenny Drive and Highlands Drive.



SHELTER RAISES AWARENESS



The City of Sugar Land's successful animal shelter, 101 Gillingham Lane, has launched a public awareness campaign called Petopia to better communicate its impact on the community—adopt happiness. Petopia's focus is on finding forever homes for stray and impounded animals. There were 698 animals adopted in 2014 by Sept. 2, compared to 597 for all of last year.

Petopia is meant to separate the shelter operations, which includes adoption, outreach (education) and volunteering, from the animal control side of Animal Services. The campaign is intended to emphasize adoptions and the care the shelter provides to stray animals. It is an effort to expand the community's understanding of what services the City's Animal Services Division provides.

The Petopia image and the "adopt happiness" tagline were first revealed on Animal Service vehicles. The City's climate-controlled van and two trucks feature the Petopia logo and pictures of happy dogs and cats on the vehicles' exterior.

Animal Services began an offsite program with PetSmart in February. This opportunity to bring dogs to the Sugar Land store on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as to house five cats at a time during the week, has resulted in 115 adoptions. Volunteers are still needed for this program. Those interested in volunteering at PetSmart may sign up for training on the volunteer site: volunteer.sugarlandtx.gov.

PetSmart
16758 Southwest Freeway
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Fridays: 3 to 6 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sundays: noon to 4 p.m.

STORM DRAINS NO DUMPING!

Storm drains help to prevent flooding during storms. These drains are only meant for rain water—nothing else. Putting anything in a storm drain is considered illegal dumping. Items such as oils, chemicals, grass or leaves should not be poured, blown or swept into storm drains. Even a few drops of oil or chemicals can contaminate large amounts of water.

The City needs your continued support to keep our waterways clean. The Public Works Department routinely puts No Dumping or Drains to Waterways stickers on the curb above a storm drain. If you see a storm drain in need of a marker in your neighborhood, please call the Public Works Department at 281-275-2450.

CODE ENFORCEMENT DID YOU KNOW...?

When a code enforcement officer sites a property with "High Weeds and Grass," the property has grass, weeds, vines, poison ivy, poison oak and/or other growth that are not being kept trimmed below 9 inches. This does not include trees, ornamental shrubbery, flowers and garden vegetables. When weeds and grasses are allowed to remain tall, there are potentially negative consequences. Not only do tall grasses and weeds detract from the appearance of the neighborhood, undesirable wildlife like rats, mice and snakes use overgrown areas as hiding places and habitats. Also, property that's not maintained often invites criminal activity. Code Enforcement asks that everyone maintain their yards in an effort to keep Sugar Land neighborhoods safe and nuisance free.

EVENTS



National Night Out

Meet Your Neighbors!

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m.

Join the City of Sugar Land's Police and Fire Departments on National Night Out—a night out against crime. The goal of the event is for neighbors to get to know each other. For those participating in the event, join the tweet-along that the police department will be hosting by using #SLNNO.

Career Fair

Employers and Job Seekers

Thursday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Constellation Field

1 Stadium Drive

Sugar Land, TX 77487

The City of Sugar Land is hosting its third annual career fair. Fort Bend employers are encouraged to host a table, and job seekers are invited to attend. A wide variety of employers from the retail, oil and gas, healthcare, education and other industries will be in attendance to meet with job seekers. To learn more about the event and to pre-register, visit the City of Sugar Land's Human Resources page at www.sugarlandtx.gov/HR. For questions, call 281-275-2735.

Job seekers may visit any Workforce Solutions Center to have their resumes critiqued before the event. Visit www.wrksolutions.com to locate a center near you.

Public Safety Open House

Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fire Station # 5

5735 Commonwealth

Sugar Land, TX 77479

Sugar Land's firefighters and police officers invite you to their annual Public Safety Open House. Meet representatives from the Sugar Land Fire Department, Sugar Land Police Department, SWAT, Emergency Management and more. There will be fire safety demonstrations. Kids will be able to have a Child ID made and enjoy special activities.

Home Landscape Series

Conserving Water in the Landscape

Saturday, Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

T.E. Harman Center

226 Matlage Way

Sugar Land, TX 77478

Learn how to select water efficient plant materials and maintain systems that conserve water in this informative workshop. Attendees will receive hands-on instructions for assembling a take-home rain barrel. Contact Brandy Rader at 281-633-7029 for more information.

This workshop is presented by the City of Sugar Land, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners and First Colony Community Association.

CITY OF SUGAR LAND SPECIAL EVENTS



Halloween Town

Sunday, Oct. 26, 4-8 p.m.
Sugar Land Town Square



Ghosts, goblins and ghouls, oh my! Come dressed in your most boo-tiful costume and participate in a costume contest. Pets, children and adults are encouraged to participate in our friendly competition.

Space is limited, so please fill out an entry form, which can be found at www.sugarlandtx.gov/halloweentown. For more information, call 281-275-2885.



iFest Live

Saturday, Nov. 8,
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sugar Land Town Square



Celebrate the wonderful diversity of cultures in our community at our new international festival. The colorful festival will highlight unique cultural traditions, arts and foods. Take a tour around the world at booths representing different countries. Entertainment will feature dancing and music. Area restaurants will provide samples of international cuisines.



Christmas Tree Lighting

Thursday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m.
Sugar Land Town Square



Mr. and Mrs. Claus and their elves are bringing their holiday magic to Sugar Land once again. Join them for some Christmas cheer and fun performances by dance groups and theatrical acts. Children and families will have the opportunity to take a picture with Santa and participate in games and activities. Food vendors will offer a variety of delicious treats for sale. For more information, call 281-275-2885 or visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/treelighting.

IMPERIAL PARK RECREATION CENTER

234 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Winter Wonderland

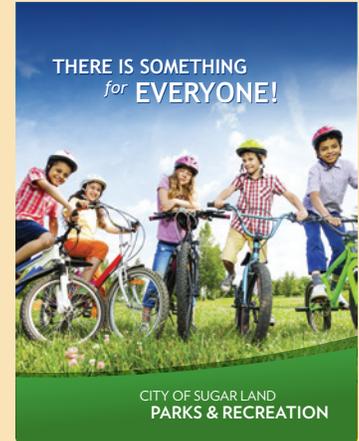
Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Imperial Park Recreation Center



Parents will not want to miss this chance to do some holiday shopping or take some Secret Santa time without the kids. Moms and Dads can drop their children off at the City of Sugar Land's Imperial Recreation Center for a day of supervised fun and activities.

Registration for this free adventure begins on Monday, Nov. 10. Space is limited. Call 281-275-2885 for more information.

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAYBOOK



Activities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department can be found in the playbook. It is a resource for City events, pool hours and classes at the Imperial Park Recreation Center and the T.E. Harman Center for seniors. The new Fall playbook is available online at

www.imperialparkrecreationcenter.org.

Download a copy today!



New Year's Eve 2015

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.
Children's Celebration: 7-9 p.m.
Adult Celebration: 10 p.m.-1 a.m.



Ring in the New Year in style! Come out and enjoy amazing street performances and walk-around entertainers. Families will enjoy a pre-midnight countdown with a fireworks finale during the children's celebration. For those partying until midnight, enjoy a spectacular 3D show as you toast the new year. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. For additional parking, go to Mercer Stadium, 16403 Lexington Blvd., where there will be complimentary shuttle service to Town Square. For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/nye or call 281-275-2825.

T.E. HARMAN CENTER

226 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-275-2893



For more information on senior activities and registration, call 281-275-2893 or email seniors@sugarlandtx.gov. Monthly calendars are available at www.sugarlandtx.gov/teharman.

POSTAL CUSTOMER

CALENDAR

Date | Event | Time | Location

OCTOBER

7	National Night Out	6-9 p.m.	Citywide
7, 21, 28	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
8	Senior Pink Walk	9 a.m.-noon	T.E. Harman Center
11	Public Safety Open House	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Fire Station #5
14, 23	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
22	Wood Street Rail Crossing Open House	5:30-7:30 p.m.	T.E. Harman Center
26	Halloween Town	4-8 p.m.	Town Square
30	Monster Mash	5-8 p.m.	T.E. Harman Center

NOVEMBER

2	Daylight Savings: fall back		
4, 18, 25	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
8	iFest Live 2014	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Town Square
11	Planning & Zoning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
27	City offices closed, no solid waste collection		
28	City offices closed. Thursday's solid waste collection instead of regular weekly collection schedule		
29	Friday's solid waste collection		

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR: NOTES ON NIGERIA



Note: "Know Your Neighbor" is written by members of the City's Multi-Cultural Advisory Team. These columns are intended to help residents get to know the customs and traditions of their neighbors.

Nigeria is a multicultural and multi-ethnic nation located in the western part of Africa. Nigerians who make up a part of the Sugar Land community and other Fort Bend County cities bring a rich culture of intellectual capital and tradition. Nigerian residents have the highest levels of education in the greater Houston area, according to Census data and an analysis conducted by Rice University.

Food plays a central role in the rituals of virtually all ethnic groups in Nigeria. Special ceremonies would not be complete without participants sharing in a meal. Normally it is considered rude not to invite guests to share in a meal when they visit. This is especially so if the visitors were invited to attend a special event such as a marriage or a naming ceremony.

Age is greatly respected in Nigeria. Both men and women who live into their senior years are seen as having earned special rights of respect and admiration.

Socially, greetings are of the utmost importance to Nigerians. A handshake and a long list of well wishes for a counterpart's family and good health are expected when meeting someone. This is true even if you have seen that person recently. Whether you are talking to a bank teller or visiting a friend, it is considered rude not to engage in a proper greeting before getting down to business.

Dance and music are perhaps the two most vibrant forms of Nigerian art. Nigerian music is dependent on strong rhythms supplied by countless drums and percussion instruments. One of Nigeria's best-known Afro-beat artists was the late Fela Kuti. Highlife is a type of music common in social events combining African rhythms and melodies with jazz and soul.

SAVE THE DATE

- CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING** | Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m.
- SENIOR HOLIDAY GALA** | Dec. 11, noon-3 p.m.
- WINTER WONDERLAND** | Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- NEW YEAR'S EVE ON THE SQUARE** | Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.